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Senate Bill _____
By _____

House No. HB1440
By Dunn

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 21 relative to the equipping and wearing of seat belts in school buses and other motor vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 21, is amended by adding the following new sections:

Section _____. Any motor vehicle, including buses, bought after the effective date of this act for the purpose of being owned, operated or leased by any public or private primary or secondary school or school system, and which is intended to be used to transport pupils, shall be equipped with safety belts for the driver and for all passengers. All motor vehicles, including buses, which are owned, operated or leased by a public or private primary or secondary school or school system, and which are intended to transport pupils, shall no later than July 1, 1999, be equipped with safety belts for the driver and all passengers. All such safety belts shall be of the type and be installed in a manner approved by the department of safety of the state of Tennessee. The department of safety shall establish specifications and requirements of approved types of safety belts and attachments. The department of safety shall accept, as approved, all

seat belt installations and the belt and anchor meeting the specifications of the Society of Automotive Engineers. In no event shall failure to wear seat belts be considered as contributory negligence. Failure to wear a seat belt shall not be considered in mitigation of damages in the trial of any civil action. The driver of any motor vehicle required to be equipped with safety belts under this act, shall not be held liable in any civil or criminal action for the failure of any passenger to wear a safety belt.

Section _____. The state board of education shall promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5, to implement the provisions of this act. Such rules and regulations shall include provisions for the posting of notices in each motor vehicle notifying the passengers of the need to wear their safety belts.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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